

time, as every one used to tell me that it was utterly useless to attempt to improve the agricultural practice of the country; or as my favourite French author puts it in his usual quaint and succinct fashion :

Que c'est une folie à nulle autre seconde,
De vouloir se mêler de corriger le monde. (1)
Mottière.

Wine from the wild grape.—Mr. O'Flaherty, the Stationmaster at Lachine, tells me he has long been in the habit of making wine from the wild-grape of the country. The Indians bring them over from Caughnawaga, in barrels, in such quantities that Mr. O'Flaherty has sometimes made as much as 110 gallons in a season. Unfortunately, he could not let me taste the wine, as he had none left, but as he was offered, by a Montreal wine merchant, \$2.50 a gallon for it, we may take it for granted it was not bad stuff.

The Escutcheon.—The Jersey cow, Malinda 4th, is reported to have given more than 15,000 lbs. of milk in a year, to have tested (officially 21½ lbs. of butter in seven days, and to have given an estimated yield of 909 lbs. within the twelve months. All this without forcing! And yet, as a heifer she was nearly being discarded from her owner's herd on account of the inferiority of her escutcheon! So much for that theory. *Jersey Bulletin.*

The *Farmers' Advocate* states that "bare and thin spots in meadows can be remedied by sowing on grass or (and?) clover seed, and sprinkling it (them?) over with a light coat of fine manure, and if well scratched with a fine-toothed implement, the process will be aided very materially." Well, I tried the experiment again this spring for the fifth or sixth time, and, as before, entirely unsuccessfully. In order that there should be no mistake as to the quality of the clover- and grass-seed, I broke up a small piece of the faulty grass-plot, raked it fine, and after sowing, rolled it down tight. The grass-plot itself I raked over twice as deeply as possible, sowed the seed, raked twice again, and rolled. All the work was done on the same day May 20th. What was the effect? On the 20th July, the broken up plot presented as fine an example of mixed clovers and grass—the latter predominating—as I could wish to see, whereas it was impossible to discover the slightest sign of any of the seedlings among the unbroken plot. The latter was of course improved by the raking and rolling, and nothing more.

Bread.—Bakers do not trouble me much, as I have "baked at home" for the last 20 years, and, owing to circumstances which it is unnecessary to dwell upon, I get my flour at wholesale prices. I do not quite understand the calculation of profits in the subjoined article from the *N. Y. Journal*. According to my figures, the barrel of flour at \$5.00 turning out 260 lbs. of bread at 4 cents a pound should give a gross profit of more than 100%! $260 \times 4c = \$10.40$. These things are worth attending to, believe me, for we are in for a run of high prices that we have not seen for some years. I have not had any account of the progress of the Montreal joint-stock bakery for some time. The building was burnt down a little while ago, but I hope it is rebuilt and the reported quarrel between the manager and the shareholders set at rest.

(1) Nothing is more, foolish than to imagine, that one can improve the way of the world.

Profits of a baker.—A baker will toss a barrel of flour into a trough. Then he tosses 104 pounds of water on top of it. A quantity of yeast is added, and then the jolly baker has 300 pounds of dough to operate on. The 300 pounds cost him \$5. In short order the dough is turned into "twists," high loaves, and other styles of the same quality. The oven's heat reduces the 300 pounds of dough to 260 pounds of bread. The baker sells his bread at the rate of four cents a pound, or at an advance of 30 per cent., over what it cost him. There are 1,400 bakers, great and small, in this city, and to them is committed the trust of supplying bread for 1,300,000 persons. There are many bakers in this city who make 1300 loaves of bread per day and sell it for from \$80 to \$105, or at a net profit of about \$40. Little money is lost in the business, and most bakers do a cash trade. It is very seldom that bakers fail. The business is steady, reliable, and attended by very few risks, unless from incompetent workmen.

N. Y. Journal.

Clover.—Mr. Waldo Brown, of the *Country Gentleman*—and extract from whose article on clover in that paper will be found below—is very much mistaken if he supposes that the voice of warning against the frequent sowing of clover emanates from the scientist alone. As I showed in this periodical in 1887, the too frequent repetition of this crop had begun to cause its failure in England nearly a hundred years ago; and when such men as the Claydens, the Jonases, and the Webbs, of the Eastern counties of England, all of whom live by farming, find that they dare not sow red clover more than once in twelve years, I think I am justified in warning people against Mr. Brown's rash recommendations.

"I am about as ardent an advocate of clover as friend Terry, although I have managed it somewhat differently. I am not disposed to argue with scientists when they lift up a voice of warning, proclaiming that by the continued use of clover we are simply accelerating the exhaustion of our soils. I simply look back over fifty years, and make a note of the fact that the farms of this locality on which clover has been grown with the greatest regularity, are to-day the farthest from exhaustion. Clover is such a great help in solving the problem of available plant-food, that I believe it to be a work of benevolence to help in the management of it."

Mr. Brown, elsewhere, speaks of sowing clover every other year, but the passage is not worth quoting. Shall we ever get to the bottom of the clover-mystery? All artificial manures fail to increase the crop, and yet farmyard dung, which contains enormous quantities of all the constituents of artificial manure, increases the yield greatly! Nitrogen, in nitrate of soda or in sulphate of ammonia, which acts so powerfully on the grasses, has no effect on clover. Lime, in the form of carbonate, as in chalk, or as a hydrate, as in slaked lime, affects clover in England to some degree, but in the form of sulphate—plaster—has no influence on it in that country, though on worn out land here, we all know how beneficial a dressing of it sometimes is.

Sheep-raising.—A really sensible article on sheep-raising will be found at page 174 of this number of the *Journal*. Barring that Mr. Adams advises sowing yellow Aberdeen turnips—the worst yielders in the world—and does not mention rape, I do not see much to amend in it, except the balance-sheet which I confess puzzles me. As far as I understand the figures, the interest on the outlay, the cost of keep of ewes and lambs + the depreciation of the former should be form the debit, and the price received for the lambs and wool the credit; as :